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December 28, 1966

Mr. Julius Fransden
Vice President, United Press International
National Press Building
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Fransden:

While his grudging letter to the Washington Post does acknowledge Merriman Smith's recognition that, although he won the Pulitzer Prize for reporting it, he is the one man in the world who does not recall where he was the moment President Kennedy was assassinated, it in no way relieves the damage he and you have done me and about which I have written you, without reply.

Nor does he diminish this hurt or reflect the slightest honesty of motive when he continues his campaign with consistent inaccuracy on the electronic media.

Had his letter to the Post been motivated by any honorable motive, Mr. Smith would have acknowledged that he also did not know the weather when he was there that terrible day. Recall this was another basis for his assault upon me. I quote you from page 42 of the Report: "In Dallas the rain had stopped and by midmorning a gloomy overcast sky had given way to bright sunshine that greeted the Presidential party ...".

If Mr. Smith's letter served any purpose, it was to give the Post an excuse for not printing the one I promptly wrote it. If his story and his continuing campaign serve any purpose, it is not to inform.

His gross inaccuracies, shameful in a cub reporter, continue to cause me damage. I might expect no more from a man so cowardly he refuses to face me on the basis of fact while continuing his slanders. I certainly should be able to expect more from UPI and I again call upon you to do what you can to end the damage your inaccurate story continues to do me and to relieve the damage it has already caused.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg